

Old-Fashioned Town Meeting Outlaws Nazi Camp in New England

By HARRY FERGUSON

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Just as their ancestors met to devise ways of fighting the Indians, the citizens of Southbury assembled today in an old-fashioned New England town meeting and passed an ordinance designed to prevent the German American bund, a pro-nazi organization, from establishing a summer camp here in the Connecticut hills.

The rabbit hunters came in from the woods, wearing their boots and mackinaws; the village doctor was there; laborers spoke their minds and a minister presided at the town meeting, an institution as old as the American republic.

Some of them quoted the Bible to prove their points and at one time the first selectman of Southbury threatened to throw the village carpenter out of the meeting for not sticking to the truth. The town meeting was held in the community hall and was opened with the historic warning—notification to all citizens to be present and speak their minds and vote their convictions.

This was the issue: The German American bund purchased 178 acres of land inside the town limits of Southbury and began to make plans for a camp. A zoning commission was appointed and it drew up a set of regulations zoning the town and making it impossible for the nazis to build cabins and stage drills on the land they had purchased.